**The Passover Pattern**

Romans 15:4 *For whatever things were written before were written for our learning,*

*that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.*

When we read the record of the Passover in Exodus 12:3-13, we sometimes fail to appreciate what a terrifying event it must have been. To be told that to leave your home in the night could bring death to your family seems to be like the plot of a horror movie. Yet it happened precisely as such, and it happened to teach us something important.

*Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come* - 1 Corinthians 10:11

Consider what we might call the Passover Pattern:

Death waiting outside

Safety by passing through a door

Safety only by remaining

Now if it sounds familiar, it is because the Passover Pattern was, before this, the ark pattern in Genesis 6:13-17:

Death waiting outside

Safety by passing through a door

Safety only by remaining

And even more remarkable, we find it again in Numbers 35:14-24 and the city of refuge:

Death waiting outside

Safety by passing through a door

Safety only by remaining

Again consider 1 Corinthians 10:11. These things were a pattern to us perhaps more than they were to them (Romans 15:4). What is it that is revealed in this pattern? We find it in Hebrews 10:23-25. this great building (called the Temple of God and Household of Faith) was purchased by the blood of the Passover lamb (Acts 20:28). It has the characteristics of the Passover pattern:

Death waiting outside

Safety by passing through a door

Safety only by remaining

Thus we see that all these things pointed to the church. If we fall away from Christ and leave the church (or are put out of the church), we are more doomed that those outside the ark, and those outside the city of refuge, and those outside the house on the Passover. They were only subject to the first death; we would be subject to the second death.